

period in any other year since 1944. From the beginning of May, the index continued to ascend until it reached its all-time maximum of 204·3 at Dec. 1, exceeding the figure for Dec. 1, 1947 by 4·7 points.

Employment in manufacturing, although still below the peak reached in 1943, was maintained at a generally high level in spite of some recessions at the beginning of several months in 1948. At Dec. 1, the employment index, at 207·9, was 4·0 p.c. above the Jan. 1 figure. During the same period the index of employment for the reporting non-manufacturing industries taken as a whole increased by 10·1 p.c. Both of these advances were considerably less than those of 6·8 p.c. and 12·7 p.c. in the manufacturing and the non-manufacturing industries, respectively, reported in 1947 over 1946. Within the manufacturing group in 1948 there was a slightly greater increase in employment in the durable goods group than in the non-durable group.

Gains were noted in all the major non-manufacturing industries with the exception of logging. The increases in the index numbers for 1948 over 1947 ranged from 2·6 p.c. in transportation and 4·8 p.c. in services to 9·8 p.c. in mining and 10·3 p.c. in construction. In all cases except mining the advances were less than the percentage increases shown in a similar comparison between 1947 and 1946. During 1948, however, the employment indexes reached new high levels in all non-manufacturing industries except mining and logging.

The proportion of women on the staffs of the reporting establishments declined slightly in 1948. No change in the proportion of women workers took place in the non-durable manufacturing group, nor in the non-manufacturing industries taken as a unit. There was a reduction, however, in the durable goods group of manufacturing, indicating that post-war adjustment was completed. The proportion of women per 1,000 workers of both sexes in the nine leading industries was 219 at Oct. 1, 1948, compared with 220 at Oct. 1, 1947, and 271 at Oct. 1, 1944, when the ratio was at its maximum. Although the proportion of women declined in the twelve months, the number of female employees reported increased by 2 p.c. at Oct. 1, 1948, as compared with a year earlier. The increase among male workers in the same period was 2·6 p.c.

At Oct. 1, 1948, there were 226 women per 1,000 workers in recorded employment in manufacturing as compared with 229 at Oct. 1, 1947. In 1939, the general proportion of women per 1,000 workers, as recorded by the Annual Census of Manufactures, was 220 women. In the non-manufacturing industries, the proportion of women decreased except in mining and construction, in which few of the reported employees were women. The most marked decline in the proportion of women workers in leading establishments between Oct. 1, 1947, and Oct. 1, 1948, was noted in services, the ratio of female employees falling from 536 per 1,000 workers at the former date to 515 at the latter, and in trade, in which the proportion dropped from 402 to 390 per 1,000. During the same period, the communications industry reported larger proportions of female workers than any other major industrial division. The ratios of female workers in the major industry groups are given in Table 3.

The 1948 annual index of payrolls for the eight leading industries increased by 15·6 p.c. over the preceding year. This increase was due not only to higher employment, but was also a result of numerous upward adjustments in wage rates. The average index (June 1, 1941 = 100) was 199·6, compared with 172·6 for 1947 and 142·4 for 1946. The general index increased steadily from month to month in 1948 with the exception of Apr. 1 and May 1. The declines at those dates were not only the